Correspondence.

MODERN BRICKWORK.

SIR,—Finding one of your correspondents, signed "V" in the paper headed "Modern Brickwork," has taken up, what I consider, a just cause of complaint, I beg leave to make some few remarks on the same subject. Myself and others (of the old school) anticipated, at the passing of the new Buildings Act, we should see work better done, instead of which the reverse is the case. Some years ago, an architect in his specifications, would bind the bricklayer that no four courses should extend to 11¼ inches, or 1 foot at farthest; a thing of that kind would be a novelty now, for in many cases you will find four courses to measure 13 in., 13½ in., and 14 in. Bricks are (or ought to be) made by one standard mould, therefore the evil rests with the slobering fellows who lay them, and the mortar. I say mortar, but should have said muck with a lime-bag shaken over it.

In looking over the new Buildings Act, as it is called, I find that great stress is laid on making buildings secure from fire. Pray who looks to this part of a building, one of the most essential? I cannot see any improvement.

A friend of mine stated to me and others, that at the back of a house in Pelham-crescent, Fulham-road, there is a furnace set in the coach-house, for melting copper. Well knowing the immense heat required for this metal, I venture to say the building is unfit for its purpose, and it is contrary to the meaning of the Act.

Your correspondent "V" states, he saw men carrying up foundations of party-walls, to all appearance two bricks thick, but in reality built of 4½ in. work on each side, leaving 9 in. space between, and this is filled up with small stones, broken bricks, and other rubbish, and no bond for five or six courses. He may well say such work as this is a disgrace.

I am, Sir, &c. C. W.

Fulham, May 11, 1846.

LICHENS ON STONE WORK.

SIR.—One of your constant readers in the country, wishes to know if there is any chemical or other process, by which the lichen on sand-stone structures can be removed, without injuring the surface, or colour of the surface.

Perhaps you will also be kind enough to say, if lichen is a preservative of stone or not, as there appears to be some difference of opinion on this important point. Most instances which have come under my own observation, tend to shew that *it preserves*; however, I incline to think that much depends upon the nature of the stone to which it attaches itself. The surfaces of some sand-stone will not receive lichen, while others will; and this is observed frequently in the same building, and where all the stones used in the structure were out of the same quarry. How is this to be accounted for?

Your attention to the above will oblige your old correspondent, FRANK TYRRELL.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 16 May, 1846.

CONVERSION OF AREAS.

SIR,—There are two triangular orifices in the side of a reservoir of water, having their bases in the same horizontal line; the sides of the one are twenty-two, twenty-eight, and thirty-four inches respectively; and those of the other, twenty-eight, thirty-two, and thirty-six inches. Now it is intended to build these up, and to form a circular aperture of equal area to them both.

Will you, or any of your numerous correspondents, inform me how to obtain the diameter of the circle, by the method of conversion, of which a specimen was given by your correspondent in No. 168 of THE BUILDER? By so doing, you will much oblige yours, &c.,

A BUILDER.

STAINED GLASS, WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—In reply to several correspondents, we are able to say that the stained glass for the south transept is far advanced, and will shortly be put up. The portions to which one inquirer refers, as having been fixed and taken down again, were placed there only temporarily.

Miscellanea.

RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MARIE, CLIFTON, NOTTS.—This church has been repaired and restored, under the superintendence of Messrs. Cottingham and Son, and was re-opened for divine service a fortnight ago. The piers and arches of the tower, with the arches in the nave abutting thereon, in which the most alarming fissures had taken place, have been restored to their original form, the masonry having been for the most part re-worked, and thorough bonding stones inserted. The disruptions which had taken place, from the weight of the tower crushing the piers, had caused the arches and pillars of the nave to swerve considerably westward: in two instances the pillars were more than a foot out of the upright; all these have been restored to a perpendicular position without the removal of a single stone, by the expansion and contraction of heated bars of iron. The roofs throughout have been restored in oak, with new stone corbels inserted to receive the helves and bearing posts; and the feet of all the principal rafters have been shod with cast iron. The floor of the entire church has been laid with encaustic tile pavement, enriched with armorial bearings. A new carved wood ceiling under the tower, the new seating of the church with low, open benches, a Litany desk, pulpit, font cover, doors to the north porch and tower, staircase, with wrought metal work, are some of the most prominent features of the restoration.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF DESIGN.—Mr. Wallis, the late master at this school, has recently issued a farewell letter, detailing the circumstances which led to his resignation. It appears that there was a disagreement with the council and director at Somerset House, respecting the system of instruction. The London council have lately begun to teach the figure simultaneously with the other branches of education, and in a manner which Mr. Wallis considers is more likely to induce bad than good results. He preferred to let the student commence with ornamental drawings, confining the figure to those whose pursuits rendered it an essential advantage, and leaving it till the conclusion of the students course, when it would be taught on sound principles, commencing from the skeleton. Accordingly, and as the Manchester council did not feel inclined to dispense with assistance from Somerset House, Mr. Wallis resigned, a step which has been greatly regretted in Manchester. Mr. Jackson, the active honorary secretary has also seceded. Mr. Wallis has a handsome testimonial presented to him on his retirement. He is now engaged in forming a separate school.

BUILDINGS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF MANCHESTER.—We learn from Captain Willis's police statistics, that the number of buildings, on the 31st December, 1845, within the borough, were 50,744. He classifies them as follows:—factories, 123; foundries, 43; warehouses and workshops, 3,813; dwelling-houses, 41,606; shops used as dwelling-houses, 4,872; cellar dwellings, 5,385; places of worship, 97; public schools, 106; military barracks, 1; banks, 16; markets, 14; railway stations, 4; gas stations, 5; workhouses, 2; infirmary, hospitals, and dispensaries, 7; night asylum, 1; lock-hospital, 1; penitentiary, 1; public institutions, 27. The cellar dwellings, being only portions of other dwellings, are not included in the gross total.—*Manchester Courier.*

THE ARRANGEMENT OF KITCHENS.—M. Soyer, the *chef de cuisine* of the Reform Club, is just completing a new work on his art, which contains plans of kitchens, to different dimensions, showing the arrangement of the necessary apparatus, and drawings of stoves and ovens in the kitchen of the Reform Club. This is a department of the architect's pursuit to which less attention has been paid than necessary, and we shall therefore recur to the book at an early opportunity.

FIRES.—The number of fires that have taken place in the metropolis and its suburbs since the commencement of the year, according to the records kept by the brigade authorities, amount to more than 300.

MODERN PICTURES.—Recent sales by auction of the works of living painters have established the fact, that those who encourage modern art with judgment are investing their money very safely, and at good interest.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting was held in the Society's Room on Wednesday evening, May 6th, the Rev. the President in the chair. After the election of new members, the report of the committee was read. It related chiefly to the progress of the works at Dorchester church, and announced the gratifying fact, that some members of Oriel College had undertaken the restoration of the west end of the south aisle, including the elegant buttress at the south-west angle, with the adjoining porch and window. To this purpose they have determined to apply the proceeds of a terminal subscription, amounting to about 80*l.* per annum. Mention was also made of an offering of gratitude from the junior members of Lincoln College to their chapel, in the shape of a handsome brass eagle-desk, of the value of nearly 80*l.* The design for this praiseworthy gift was laid before the Society. Fifty copies of an engraving of the ancient Guestern Hall, at Worcester, had, it appeared, been received from the Rev. W. Digby, Canon of Worcester, and distributed among the most active members of the society. They might, it was hoped, by making that interesting building better known, promote its restoration. Mr. Freeman, of Trinity College, then read a paper "on the Antiquities of Purton Church, Wilts, with Notices of some neighbouring Churches."

SALE OF ST. BENET FINK.—At the beginning of the week, Mr. Pullen sold by public auction the church of St. Benet Fink, Threadneedle-street. The six stone columns with carved capitals, placed along the two sides of the building, and supporting the roof, realised 11*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*; and the altar windows at the east end, having in the centre a coat of arms in stained glass, with the date 1695, brought 2*l.*

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

During the ensuing Week.

MONDAY, May 25.—British Architects, 76, Grosvenor-street, 8 P.M.; Geographical, 3, Waterloo-place (anniversary), 1 P.M.; Linnæan, Soho-square (anniversary), 1 P.M.

TUESDAY, 26.—Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, 8 P.M.; Syro-Egyptian, 71, Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square, 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 27.—Society of Arts, Adelphi, 8 P.M.

THURSDAY, 28.—Royal, Somerset House, 8½ P.M.; Antiquaries, Somerset House, 8 P.M.

FRIDAY, 29.—Royal Institution, Albemarle-street, 8½ P.M.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled, by the interference of the Stamp Office, to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c. are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the office of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent Garden.]

For the erection of a tower for a lighthouse on the Heugh, or Headland, at Hartlepool.

For lighting the City of Bristol with gas for seven years, from 29th September, 1847.

For the erection of National Schools at Great Waltham, near Chelmsford.

For the erection of the new workhouse at Ashbourne (extension of time).

For the erection of new works for the Carlisle Gas Light and Coke Company, in Borough Mile Field.

For the erection of a station-house at Huddersfield, for the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway.

For all or any of the several requisite works in the erection of a church at Henley.

For taking down and erecting a farm-house and farm-buildings in Corton, Suffolk.

For erecting a lodge to the cemetery at Coventry.

For the erection of several lodges on the Nottingham and Lincoln Railway.

For 300 tons of the best Hartshill stone.

For the masons', carpenters', slaters', plasterers' and plumbers' works of a free church Manse, to be erected at Redcastle, near Inverness.

For repairing, and keeping in repair, the Tongue-road, in the county of Sutherland.

For the erection of part of an extensive set of office-houses on the farm of Ardintive, near Oban.

For laying down about 850 yards of 8-inch cast-iron gas-main for the Teignmouth Improvements Commissioners, and for relaying another main of about same length.

For the construction of sewers in Finch-lane, Nicholas-lane, and Angel-court, City; also for cleansing and repairing City sewers for three years.

For the erection of a new bridge over Calf Lake, Burn, in the parish of Lochmaben.

For supplying the trustees for repairing, lighting, &c. Grosvenor-place, and the squares and streets adjacent, with flints, stone, gravel, granite, &c.

For erecting a gas-work for Inverleithen, County Peebles.

For executing repairs on the stone pier at Newhaven.

For finishing ten third-rate houses at Islington.

For supplying the Committee for Paving, &c. the parishes of St. Giles's-in-the-Field, and St. George's, Bloomsbury, with granite, gas-posts, copper lanterns, fittings, &c.

For the iron-work of a condenser and tar-tank for the Commercial Gas-light and Coke Works, &c., &c.

For building a new workhouse at Kensington (extension of time.

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